

2. In some countries, young people do not take care of their elderly relatives. Instead, they appoint trained professionals who take care of the elderly.

Is it a positive or a negative trend according to you?

Owing to rapid changes in lifestyle, work patterns and social set up, young family members these days do not pay attention to the problems of the older members of their family. It is also seen that they often hire competent professionals to look after the elderly in the family. This development is not very positive and may create social and cultural complications.

There are numerous reasons why I think this is a negative development. Firstly, it is a moral responsibility of young ones to take care of their older relatives in the family. If they turn deaf ears to old people, children in the same family also grow up with similar understanding and they will do the same when they become young. Secondly, such practice is very harmful to the social and family set up as old people worked hard and nurtured their children and now when they need support, the children turn their back on them at the time of reciprocation. The institution called family thus breaks down.

Thirdly, elderly people often feel lonely and rejected when they see that their own offspring does not have time for them. Such a situation may lead older people into depression and related health problems. Finally, trained professionals are not family members and hence they cannot show love and warmth to the seniors.

On the other hand, qualified professionals do offer some benefits. To begin with, they can be with the elders all times in the house and can provide the right treatment in case of emergency, which can be life saving at times. Next, many youngsters may have to travel or work in other cities for a long period, and here, hiring trained professionals is the only option left.

All in all, it seems that trained health professionals may give competent services and can offer an alternative. However, I firmly believe that youngsters in the family must look after their elders as it is one of their fundamental duties.

On the other side

Owing to rapid changes in lifestyle, work patterns and social set up, young family members these days cannot pay attention to the older members of their family. It is also seen that they often hire competent professionals to look after them. This development is the need of the day and is beneficial to all.

Hiring qualified professionals helps in many ways. Firstly, since youngsters cannot spend too much time in caring for the elders because of increased working hours and stress in life, hired professionals can spend time with elders and can make them feel wanted. Secondly, trained people can offer competitive services and they are a boon in emergencies because it's their knowledge that can save life of older people.

Thirdly, professionals are also trained to socialize and provide emotional support to the elders, which motivate them to stay socially active. Finally, it is also seen that conflicts occur within the two generations in the family and that may create troubles for all. In such a situation, the presence of a professionally trained person with the elder is of great help and support.

However, taking care of elders is one of the fundamental duties of youngsters and they cannot escape from it. Next, old timers often seek love and warmth from their own blood and if they do not get it, they may become victims of frustration and may develop related illnesses. Lastly, such a trend gives a wrong message to the children of the family as they grow in an environment where they do not develop any tolerance towards older people of the family.

All in all, it is morally correct that youngsters ought to look after the elderly in the family. However, I do not see anything wrong in hiring qualified professionals for this job as they can offer more benefits to both, according to me.



3. For some people, shopping is not just about buying what is necessary, but is a form of entertainment.

Do you think it is a positive or negative development?

Perception of shopping has been transformed from just being a routine task into an interesting and enjoyable experience. A major chunk of shoppers these days go for shopping just to be entertained. However, this development is not encouraging for the society.

There are many reasons why shopping meant for entertainment is not good. First, shoppers often waste too much time in visiting various outlets. Consequently, they lose their focus and are diverted away from other essential responsibilities of their life and relationships. Secondly, owing to excess exposure to shopping, people become spend-thrifts and often shop beyond their financial reach. This is extremely harmful to them as well as their families because financial burden emerging from excess spending leads to bitterness in their bonding. Finally, those who cannot spend enough often feel inferior and in extreme cases, they may take up illegal activities to earn money. Youngsters are more prone to such risks because they are more vulnerable.

On the other hand, increased interest of all classes of people in shopping has made it a throbbing industry worldwide. It is indeed a welcome step for those who seek careers in retail segment because more jobs are now available in retail industry than ever.

As per my opinion, those who use shopping as a tool for entertainment are under a risk of social, financial and psychological imbalance. Thus, even though shopping gives benefits to those who are employed in the sector, I think, perceiving shopping as a source of entertainment is indeed harmful.



4. Increased world demand of oil and gases cause the taking up of search operations of fuel in remote or even untouched natural places.

Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantage of damaging those places?

It is an undeniable fact that oil and gas explorations are going on at a frenzied pace owing to an outrageous usage of fossil fuels across the world. This has compelled us to explore isolated or even uninhabited places to meet the surging demand for oil and gas. However, this search might lead to hazardous consequences.

If we look at the advantages, they are obvious and evident. We need more fuel and this never ending thirst can be quenched by more sources of crude and gas. Moreover, these days, habited places and locations create huge problems for the explorers to conduct the drilling work. In addition to the discomfort, it is risky as well because any drilling needs to be done with intense precautions and a small mistake in the same can cause the loss of many lives and can damage public property.

Now, if we turn our head towards disadvantages, they can be both predictable and unpredictable. First, isolated and untouched natural places do contribute to our ecosystem. They have a certain role to play and if their flora and fauna is disturbed, the consequences of the same can be felt globally. Secondly, some places, like the north and south poles can get affected if too much of drilling work happens there as it can cause polar ice caps to melt faster and can result in increased sea levels. Finally, remote and untouched places are homes of some natural species. Now, drilling for fossil fuels can certainly endanger all those species, which may have its own consequences in future.

All in all, even though the craving for oil and gas seems rampant and encourages drilling at different places, I strongly assert that we must avoid such exploration because, it can create severe adverse effects that will have disastrous consequences for us and our future generations as well.



5. Many children these days have their own mobile phones.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of it?

It is indeed true that mobile phones are reaching the pockets of everybody in this world and children are also not exempted from this widespread phenomenon. It seems to be beneficial for children but, in reality, it has more drawbacks.

There are several reasons why children should avoid mobiles as much as possible. The first factor is risk. Children are vulnerable and are a soft and easy target of thieves who can quickly overpower or cheat children and snatch the phone off their hands. This situation can be extremely dangerous in some cases. Secondly, kids can be distracted

by overuse of cell phones. Most of them use mobile phones for entertainment and trivial activities like chatting or surfing the internet. In addition, some school goers also indulge in indecent uses of the internet, which can be very harmful for their tender minds.

Thirdly, it is scientifically proven that mobile waves harm our body. It is also proven that they can harm children's body in higher intensities because their bodies are more vulnerable than adults'. Finally, some children also use mobiles to flaunt their affluent financial status. This phenomena is very harmful to all those who use mobiles.

On the other hand, some people state that children can be benefited by keeping cell phones with them. They say that mobiles are a boon in emergency and they can call their parents or relatives when they are under any threat or in trouble. Moreover, children learn using electronic gadgets at a young age; hence, they become techno savvy right from their childhood.

Conclusively, it is true that mobiles may help kids in case of emergencies, however, after studying an array of drawbacks of using cell phones, I assert that mobiles do more harm than good for children.



6 Many countries import food materials from other countries.

Do you think the advantages of imported food materials from other countries outweigh its disadvantages?

Owing to globalization, it is indeed easy for all the countries to import goods from other nations. Hence, importing food from other countries is a very popular and common trade practice. It seems that, as a whole, imported foods may have higher drawbacks than benefits.

First, let us have a look at the benefits. Imported food can certainly offer a great range of variety in the receiving country. It is true that many varieties, for example those of spices or dry fruits or grains, do not grow in all countries. However, they are a common ingredient in most exotic food recipes. Thus, in such cases, the food has to be brought from another country. Moreover, some healthy and economic food variants can cer-

tainly help the denizens a lot. Also, nutritious and healthy food options actually fall in the essential category and have to be imported.

Now, let us assess the other side. Importing foods has certain disadvantages as well. To begin with, such trade always puts pressure on the economy of the country as valuable foreign revenues go to the supplying country. Next, such trade also makes the people from the importing country to be dependent on the food. This can be harmful because when commodity prices rise, they have to shell out more money from their pockets to have their favourite food dish. Furthermore, the people of the receiving country may develop detachment to their traditional and cultural food items and this can be an egregious social consequence of importing food. *exceptional*

Finally, looking at the advantages and disadvantages of importing foods, I believe that excepting essential food ingredients, countries should avoid importing food because it seems to have more cons than pros.



7. International tourism has enormous benefits, at the same time; it has some concerns for local inhabitants and the environment.

Do the advantages of international tourism outweigh disadvantages?

It is an undeniable fact that leisure, hospitality, tourism and aviation industries have seen tremendous growth in the last few decades. It is estimated that international tourism will continue to grow at a good pace. Excepting some issues, international tourism has a number of benefits to offer.

The first and foremost benefit offered by international tourism is revenue generation. The places of attraction are visited by international visitors. They stay and spend their money over there thus bringing prosperity for the host country with them. Second, such places also attract huge foreign and domestic investment from hospitality and tourism and other concerned industries. This leads to a growth in the infrastructure of the area. Next, it also provides handsome employment opportunities to local people and helps them to upgrade the standard of their lives.

Third, foreign visitors are attracted towards local arts and traditions. Such exposure is always advantageous to particular cultures as they become popular around the world. What is more, the revenue generated from international visitors can also be used in the betterment of indigenous people and the environment.

On the other hand, international tourism raises some issues. Firstly, as many people visit the place, the maintenance of the place becomes very difficult for the government. For example, people throw away rubbish like plastic bags, empty food packets and cans that are dangerous to the local environment. Secondly, as the places develop in infrastructure, they swell in size also. This development obliges indigenous people to move away from the area.

Finally, as per my opinion, international tourism offers a vast number of benefits. However, it raises some concerns, which can be taken care of by the government if they impose strict rules.



- 8 Some people like to work for a few months in a year and for the rest of the time they do what they like.

Do advantages of this job pattern outweigh its disadvantages?

In today's world we can see a phenomenon unfolding in niche contexts where people work only for a few months during one year and in the remaining time, they do whatever they feel like. This is indeed a brave initiative and needs courage, faith and adequate resources. The effects of this tendency are discussed in the paragraphs to come.

Such a routine helps people in many ways. First, people can enjoy and pursue their hobbies and can engage in different assignments and projects which are important in their life. Second, it is often observed that those who work in such a pattern have a better performance to show because they do not suffer from monotony.

Third, those who live and explore life on their own often bring new and innovative ideas in their work and many a times their ideas do click. This is because as they stay out of the work environment, they can think out of the box and can see things objectively and

creatively. Finally, such work pattern also keeps them away from stress and boredom and helps them live a happy, contented and satisfied life.

On the other hand, such tendency can be harmful to some people. If they do not work round the year, they may not get a secure job, which leads to instability in their career ahead. Secondly, most occupations need constant updates, which is possible only for those who work regularly. Lastly, such work pattern cannot bring in high profile jobs to people and thus, their financial growth can be limited.

In summary, such a work pattern is good for those who give priority to their hobbies and likings and have enough resources to meet the needs of life. However, they may not have a steadily growing career and hence, I think, one has to garner financial security before adopting such a life-pattern.



9. Grandparents take care of the children when their parents are out at work.

What are the advantages and possible disadvantages of this?

In today's highly developing and fast growing world, it is almost essential for both the parents to work so that they can meet the financial requirements of their family. In this case, grandparents take care of their children and this is very beneficial for the children.

There are three major advantages of this. First, as grandparents usually stay at home fulltime, because of this, children never feel lonely and they get all that love and warmth they expect from a family and this is a boon for them. Second, grandparents also assist grandchildren in their studies. In addition, they also can go to school to drop them and pick them up. What is more, they also impart the knowledge of their culture, ethics and moral values to the children and make the latter familiar with religion and rituals.

Finally, children are safe in the presence of grandparents. As they monitor the activities of their children with their experienced eyes, they protect them from many excesses like watching TV for a long time, moving into wrong company, or developing bad habits and so on. This also gives a sense of security to the parents who are at work. They can

better concentrate on their work and can strengthen their financial position.

On the other hand, there are some possible limitations of grandparents. Firstly, because of the generation gap, some old people cannot develop understanding with their children and this can have some adverse consequences. Secondly, physical limitations of grandparents deprive them from being of company to their grandchildren. However, this happens in a negligible number of cases.

To conclude, though there are some limitations, I think, grandparents are the best people in this world to take care of the children at home and kids who have this opportunity are very fortunate according to me.



10. More and more measures to improve the security levels in large urban areas have been introduced in many countries because of the increased crime.

Do the benefits of these security measures outweigh the drawbacks?

It is a fact that, today, people live under constant surveillance in large urban areas because these areas are more developed and richer. So, crime rate is higher as the biggest motive behind most crimes is money and it is available in many forms and in ample quantities in these areas. This confirms the compulsion of security measures.

Large urban areas are economic proliferations and hence are the centre of all commercial activities. We can find there rich people, latest technological equipments and many precious items in homes, offices and showrooms. As wealth is available all around, criminals are attracted to it. Here, protection is very vital and there is a non debatable need to introduce more measures of security.

These means help the governments a lot. Firstly, it is easier for any criminal to hide in the crowd or in any structure because city areas are denser but latest security cameras help in detecting the culprit. Secondly, the identification process is very sophisticated and accurate with the use of scanners and sensors that do not give any criminal an opportunity to commit a crime and get away with it. Finally, when a criminal is aware of

such systems, he is reluctant to commit a crime. This reluctance helps a lot in preventing crime in the urban society.

On the other hand, it is often argued that higher security makes life mechanical and degrades humans into a commodity. Next, there is no privacy in such areas as everyone feels that he/she is being monitored constantly and this thought makes them uncomfortable and vulnerable. Lastly it can be said that we have become dependent on machines every day and there is a sense of panic when they fail to work.

Finally, though there are few drawbacks of means of security regarding breach of privacy, I think the benefits of protection are much higher for the urban society.



11. There are social, medical and technical problems associated with the use of mobile phones.

What forms do they take?

Do you agree that the problems outweigh the benefits of mobile phones?

The Cell phone is one of the best inventions in the field of communication. Every day, technological advancements are making possible newer and better models of the same. It has some social, medical and technical concerns. However, its advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

Social problems are of the form of loss of manners and misuse. To start with, we can see people talking loudly on their mobile phones at colleges, hospitals, at a meeting or even while driving. Such manner deficient behaviour creates difficulty for others and for the users also. Moreover, people take pictures or record others' movements without their consent. This leads to the misuse of those photographs and can lead to crime.

Next, there are medical issues also. Mobiles generate strong electro-magnetic fields and a constant exposure is dangerous to our body. It can lead to brain tumours, heart troubles or even impotence in males.

Furthermore, it has some technical concerns also. Many people do not know how to

operate a mobile and because of lack of knowledge, they are cheated at times for minor technical applications. In addition, some people mishandle the parts of the instrument. For example, mobiles run on lithium battery that can explode in the direct sunlight and in water, which can be life threatening.

Thus, mobiles do have social, medical and technical issues. However, I think with proper handling, counselling and stricter legislation, all the issues can be taken care of. What is more, it is a boon for communication, data-storage, Internet accessibility and so on. Thus, they are gaining in their usage and popularity.

Summing up, considering all the aspects, I assert that the difficult issues related to the mobile phones are far less than the benefits associated with their usage.



12. More people will work from home and more students will study at home if computer technology becomes cheap and accessible.

What will be the advantages and disadvantages if this happens?

Computers are transforming our world into a global village. Moreover, this technology is getting cheaper and easily accessible to everyone. This development is going to enhance online working and distance learning in the world. There will be fruitful results of this occurrence.

The benefits offered by cyber space are astonishing. First, tele-workers have flexibility of working hours so that they can fulfill personal, family and social obligations more easily. In addition, such work always promotes skills over seniority. Hence, the employment problem among youth can be easily solved. Second, elderly people can also work from their home and can earn their living, which can be a big contribution to the global economy. Third, students can get qualifications from overseas universities at home. What is more, they can study with better concentration at home. Finally, this development reduces travel as people stay at home. This is a boon for the environment because it helps in reducing pollution.

However, it has some drawbacks also. To begin with, being social animals, humans like

to interact with each other. In conditions where they always work from home, people will feel isolated and lonely. This may lead to psychological problems in extreme cases. Next, industries like marketing, insurance, repair and maintenance, transport etc. will have to face a hard time because their customers no longer come to the market but are happy in their residences. Therefore, people who work with above-mentioned industries will have to travel extensively to reach out to their consumers.

Finally, computer technology is surely going to revolutionize in the way people work and study. It will have a great impact on human life. According to me if this development materializes, it will be more advantageous for the world.



13. E-mails have had a huge impact on professional and social communication. However, their effects have been positive as well as negative.

Do the advantages of using e-mail outweigh its disadvantages?

It is certainly true that the use of e-mail has greatly changed the way we communicate with each other at work as well as socially. However, it is also true that not all the effects of this innovation have been positive, although advantages outnumber disadvantages.

A common criticism of e-mail in the workplace is that it causes extra work and stress. This is because most employees receive more messages than they can answer every day and since e-mail writers expect a quick response, this further increases pressure on employees. Other objections to e-mail for both social and professional users include the way it encourages people to spend even longer hours at their computers. Further, there is also the danger of incoming messages allowing viruses into our computer system.

In spite of these negative effects, however, e-mail has brought important benefits as well. One such advantage of using e-mail is that it is a fast and easy way to communicate with family, friends and work colleagues wherever they are in the world. It not only allows people to stay in touch with each other, but it also allows them to send digital files like pictures, music, diagrams, text etc. very quickly, cheaply and with very good quality of reproduction. This is a huge advance on the earlier communication systems, and the low cost of e-mail implies that it is used by almost everyone.

To sum up, while there are some obvious drawbacks to using e-mail, this fast and user-friendly technology has greatly improved our ability to communicate both professionally and socially. Therefore, I think e-mail has brought us many more benefits than disadvantages.



14. Nowadays, in some countries, single young adults prefer to live away from their parents. They usually do so to study or work in different places.

Do you think this trend has more advantages than disadvantages?

It is indeed true that the number of young people working or studying away from home is higher than ever. This trend has emerged out of some factors typical to an interconnected world where each node offers different services from the other.

There are several benefits of this situation. To begin with, certain academic courses are not available everywhere. Thus, students have to go to other cities where they can acquire education in the field of their choice. In addition, certain cities have developed a reputation of quality education providers. This also attracts students to those universities from across the world. Secondly, if we assess professionals, certain industries are well developed in some parts of their country. For example if we talk about information technology in India, it is highly developed in the Southern parts of India. Thus, to get a competitive work environment and a handsome salary package, a computer engineer ought to settle in that region. So, this arrangement is almost essential for students and professionals who seek vertical growth in their careers.

On the other hand, there are certain drawbacks of staying away from home. Firstly, both, students and employees who are away from their home often feel lonely. They lack the emotional support, love, warmth and care given by their parents and in certain cases, loneliness may lead to severe psychotic issues. Secondly, youngsters have to be more responsible compared to their years, in all aspects of life, as there is no one who can guide them. Finally, their lifestyle gets disturbed as they have to eat outside and sometimes, the food is neither hygienic, nor healthy.

To conclude, I assert that the system of working or studying away from home has offered excellent growth opportunities. Therefore, I believe that this setup has more advantages as compared to disadvantages.



15. Some people argue that public transportation should be made completely free of charge.

Are there more advantages over disadvantages of this decision?

Public transportation is like a lifeline in big cities across the world. Governments spend billions of dollars every year in developing and maintaining public transportation systems. Since it has a wider reach, some argue that it should be made free for all. The idea seems good but not feasible for any government in this world.

There are several reasons why public transportation should not be made free for all. First, maintaining and developing public transport vehicles and routes is extremely expensive. These mammoth expenditures are met with the revenue received from passengers. Now, if the transportation is free, funds allocated from the government's budget will be so high that it can affect the economic growth of the entire nation.

Secondly, it is always observed that free things have no value. When the public finds it free, they may not respect it and sometimes such facilities are likely to be misused by people and in such cases, the spending by the government will rise unexpectedly. Finally, free transportation vehicles often get overloaded with commuters, which further creates problems in traffic management. In addition, vehicles used for transportation will also have to face higher wear and tear.

On the other hand, keeping public transport usage free of cost does offer some benefits. One of them is, countless people of the country will be benefited by that system. It will help increase mobility of commuters and help the cities to expand properly. Next, the increasing problem of traffic jams, rising noise and air pollution can certainly be controlled to a great extent.

Finally, making public transport free might help in controlling pollution and traffic related

issues. However, I firmly believe that it will create more problems for the governments across the world and thus it can never be made free for all.



- 16 In some countries, it is possible for the people to have access to a variety of food that has been transported from all over the world.

Do the benefits of imported food outweigh its drawbacks?

Owing to globalization, the food people used to eat has also moved with them across continents. These days we can get cuisines of different countries almost everywhere in the world. This is a welcome trend according to me.

Food from foreign countries can be beneficial in numerous ways. First, the newcomers who bring their food with them do not feel that they are totally away from their homeland. This is essential for them to survive and grow in a new country because eating is directly related to health and happiness and consequently, to their work efficiency. Secondly, they share their food variants with local people and make them aware of it. This is useful in developing tolerance, harmony and balance among people of different cultures who live in the same region.

Lastly, imported food helps local people to adopt and create a richer fusion to their benefit. For example, the proportion of vegetarian people is very high in India. Hence, restaurants like McDonalds and KFC have introduced pure vegetarian meals which are appreciated by Indian people. Such blend of food patterns brings about a sense of abundance across cultures in the world.

On the other hand, some people argue that imported food is harmful to local cultures. They say that food reflects culture and it is often prepared by considering the health and climatic requirements of that region. Now if we bring food from another region, it may not be suitable to the local people and may affect their health. They also assert that if youngsters like the foreign food, they will forget their traditional food habits and may develop detachment from their indigenous culture.

All in all, even though there are concerns of the health of local people and cultural

diversification, I think imported food is indeed a welcome idea. If we want cultural equality and balance in our world, we must not prevent food from travelling across continents.



17. In some countries, schools remain open for more hours so that children can be looked after because their parents are working.

Do the advantages outweigh disadvantages of this?

Life in the present makes it essential for both parents to work and therefore it is not possible for them to watch over their children. Thus, schools in many countries offer to look after these children beyond school hours so that the parents can come to take them after office.

There are many advantages to this. Firstly, children are at a secure place where they face no kind of danger from the outside world. Secondly, the school staff is responsible and trained and takes proper care of them every day and even during an emergency like a child getting hurt or sick. Thirdly, in an academic environment, children are engaged in constructive activities apart from studies or even extended help for their homework and projects. Thus, they are in a setting that keeps them occupied and prevents them from falling into the trap of bad activities in the absence of their parents.

Compared to the advantages, the disadvantages are not too many. To begin with, in the case where the school administration is not responsible enough to employ trained staff for this after-school activity there is a possibility that children are not given due attention and care. Also, in the event of a child given hostile treatment in school from a teacher or fellow students, his or her torture can extend if the parents choose to let the child remain in the premises after study.

Finally, even though there are there are exceptional incidents where children are mistreated at the school, I think it is rather advantageous that a child is taken care of by the school authorities for extra hours when the parents are at office.



4. CAUSE AND EFFECTS (3)

- 1 Today, many parents force their children to study all kinds of courses in their early age.

What are the reasons behind this?

What effects do you think this practice would bring to the children?

Today's era of cut-throat competition has made life rather difficult for children. We can see most parents pushing their children not only to study more but to attend and excel in extra-curricular activities as well to make their resumes attractive in the future. This trend will definitely make children more intelligent but at the expense of their childhood.

There are two main reasons behind such a development. First, most people want their children to be highly competitive and capable of executing multiple skills. This is because when they grow up, they will not have to face any problems in getting a job or conducting business and can thereby have financial security. Secondly, out of jealousy and comparison, most parents observe what others' children are doing. Now, just to keep their own children ahead in the race, parents oblige them to learn different skills and to join courses for the same.

This tendency has both positive as well as negative effects on children. If we talk about the positive effects, children do learn different skills and become well adapted to life. Next, they evolve a better understanding of the world and are well prepared to take up challenges. Consequently, this attitude enables them to face any situation in life.

On the other hand, kids lose their innocence, fantasies and joys of being a child. They do not get enough opportunity to pursue what they like to do. This inhibits their growth and can turn them negative about life.

Finally, I must admit that motivating children to learn new skills to make them better individuals is a welcome thought. However, if it comes at the cost of their childhood, I do not go with it. Children must be given enough space to grow and blossom with freedom and calmness.



2. It is seen that older adults are not given enough respect and facilities in many countries.

What could be the reasons for this?

What are the effects of this?

It is true that some societies do not offer due respect to the older people. This is not a wise approach as a whole because it creates many difficulties for both elderly people and governments.

The prime factor is that older people are weak physically and cannot do a full-time job. Hence, their contribution to the economy of their country is often negligible. What is more, because of reduced income, they expect tax-rebates, pension, discount on public transport and so forth. Next, with the increasing age, they require higher and intensive health care facilities. All these issues contribute negatively to the economy of the country. Therefore, some countries show reluctance in offering support and respect to old people.

On the other hand, there are egregious consequences of lack of support from governments to the old age population. Neglect of elders leads to dissatisfaction in their minds for the system and the country. They become frustrated and turn pessimistic about life. Furthermore, lack of health care support from governments creates financial burden on their family members, which creates problems among them. Consequently, such development leads to imbalance in the society and people perceive old age as a curse.

Finally, deficiency in respect and support towards elderly people can be disastrous for many countries. According to me, such countries must change their approach towards older people and try to use their skills in constructive and useful ways to achieve and maintain positive growth in all age groups of the country.



3. Nowadays, children play computer games for long hours. They do not play old traditional games.

What do you think are the reasons for this?

Do you think it influences children in a good or a bad way?

Technology is influencing all the areas of life and entertainment is not an exception. Today's children are always found busy playing games on computers, which is not a very positive development.

There are certain factors that prompt children to play these games. First, computer games are rich in graphics and have excellent background music. Thus, they are visually more appealing and more entertaining as well. Secondly, the lifelike graphical presentation on screen helps children in having a real life feeling when they play games. Finally, most parents these days are working and thus, they avoid sending their children to playgrounds because they think children are not safe if they spend too much time away from home. Therefore, parents keep motivating their children to engage in some gaming activities at home.

This development affects the physical and mental health of children. Let us consider the health problems first. Children spend too much time sitting at the gaming console. This can create potential problems in their back muscles and eyes. In addition, most children also eat junk food while playing games. Their eating patterns become erratic and they often become victims of indigestion. This can lead to problems of obesity and overweight.

Now, let us analyze mental implications. Playing computer games over a long period of time hinders psychological development of children. Some games may contain explicit or violent content which can cause psychotic disorders in their tender minds. Finally, playing a game alone also inhibits social interaction, which can result in lack of relevant skills in them.

Conclusively, even though, conditions often oblige parents to permit their children to play games on screen. I firmly believe that excessive exposure to computer games is indeed harmful for children.



5. PROBLEM AND SOLUTIONS (17)

1. Children from age 7-11 now spend more time watching television and/o playing video games than before.

What are the effects of this on children, families and society?

What are the possible solutions to this problem?

It is indeed true that urbanization is obliging children to spend more time inside their homes rather than playing outdoors. Simultaneous to this has been the communication revolution. Consequently, children have taken to activities like watching television and playing video games in a big way. However, such habits if taken to the extreme can be very harmful for them.

Watching television and playing video games are passive activities and they have certain negative effects. First, children sit on one place for hours and keep watching TV or playing video games. This makes them lazy as there is absence of any physical activity. Second, during such activities, children eat lots of junk food like chips, popcorn, pizza and so on. As a result, they become obese and lose their efficiency when it comes to studying and playing sports. Thirdly, such passive activities if done for longer hours do not really refresh them. Rather, children feel mentally fatigued after watching TV or playing video games and they become short tempered. Finally, such negative effects on children create an imbalance in society as they do not grow up into responsible and grounded individuals.

To address this problem, actions at all levels are important. First, schools should take adequate measures in counselling children on drawbacks of such passive activities and motivate them to stay away from them. Second, parents and teachers should collectively work in the direction of making lives of children more active and creativity oriented. Finally, governments, if possible should limit number of television programs available for children in order to prevent them from being couch potatoes.

To conclude, I believe, with the above mentioned steps we can be successful in inculcating creative, active and healthy habits in children.



2. Many people complain about stress at work.

How can employers reduce stress at work and what can employees do on their own to solve this problem?

Stress seems to have become a companion of employees in the present day era. It is one of the most discussed and debated issues across the corporate world. It is also seen as a threat to the humanity. However, it can certainly be reduced if employers and employees both take sincere steps.

Employers should take care of certain important aspects that help in reducing stress at work. Firstly, every employee needs a clarity in the tasks allotted to him or her and adequate resources to perform the same. Hence, employers should be precise in communicating with their employees and provide them with proper assistance. Secondly, employers should offer justifiable remuneration to their workers else, they will be under stress and underperform. Finally, healthy working conditions with respect to physical and mental human capabilities are very essential to reduce stress at work.

On the other hand, employees should also take some actions to eliminate stress at work. To begin with, they must be honest, punctual and dedicated to their work. Some workers have a tendency to play office politics that disturbs the work culture and environment. Secondly, proper time management and regular skill enhancement are virtues that every employee ought to develop in order to remain stress free. Finally, ethical, cooperative, considerate and committed behaviour is the key to stay away from any conflict or mind games that give rise to a lot of stress.

In conclusion, adequate facilities, working conditions, good salary and clarity in work should be provided by employers and honesty, dedication, work ethics and other corporate soft skills should be developed and followed by the employees in order to curb stress according to me.



3. Natural resources such as fresh water, oil and forests are fast disappearing from the Earth.

Why is this happening? Is that dangerous?

Suggest a solution for this problem.

For the last few decades, the earth has been witnessing an incessant reduction in its natural resources. This scenario can be attributed to excessive population, widespread industrialisation, globalisation and urbanisation. All these are largely responsible for rampant usage of natural resources like water, fossils fuels and rain forests. It is indeed an alarming situation and it must be addressed immediately.

There can be devastating consequences of such a development. Lack of availability of water and oil will create a huge imbalance in the economies of all the countries, which will pressurize the economic growth and other essential services like health care, education, transportation and so on because scarcity of these two resources is directly proportionate to inflation. In addition, lack of rain forests will create disturbances in weather cycles. Consequently, there can be more natural calamities. Further, irregular and unpredictable weather always affects farming. As a result, due to reduced agricultural yield, the vicious cycle of inflation shall be set into motion.

There are plenty of ways in which this problem can be solved. First of them is reducing air and water pollution. This will help in proper water and air consumption and will put brakes on deforestation. Secondly, excessive usage of oil and electricity must be curbed in order to have a green and healthy climate. Finally, better alternatives in transportation and construction must be introduced to reduce fossil fuel consumption and to check the need of more land.

Finally, as per my opinion, it is certainly true that lack of natural resources like oil, water and rain forests can put the survival of the earth at a risk. However, with proper care and management, this situation can be handled and the life span of our dear earth can be increased.



4. City dwellers do not tend to develop close relationships with their neighbours.

Why is this so and what can be done to improve contacts between neighbours within cities?

It is indeed true that urban people are not so keen on having close relationships with their neighbours. This is emerging as a serious social concern across the world. However, I think very little can be done to address this.

There are many reasons why this situation has emerged. Firstly, changes in work hours and lifestyle have prompted people to stay in their homes and communicate less with their neighbours. Secondly, there are ample entertainment and leisure options available for today's urban families. Hence, they opt for watching TV, playing games on computer or even surfing the internet at home. Thirdly, affluent city people often prefer to go for luxurious options like recreation clubs and movies. Finally, it is also seen that professionals are frequently transferred to different cities by their companies, and so, such employees do not form close bonds with their neighbours because they know that such closeness will not last long.

However, there are a few steps that can be taken at an individual level to address this situation. We, at a society or community level should increase interaction among neighbourhoods. We can also co-operatively plan activities that include interaction, participation and involvement of all who live nearby. For example, a sports contest, social gathering for leisure or for welfare will help people to know their neighbours better.

Conclusively, I think it's a trend that is occurring at a socio-cultural level and so, not too much can be done to address this problem. Unless there will be a dramatic change in our lifestyles, this situation will not be completely eliminated though it can be checked to some extent.



5. People prefer to use their own transport these days.

Why is this so?

What can be done to encourage people to use public transport?

Private vehicles are becoming more and more popular and are being utilized higher than ever in this world. For some environmentalists, it is a concern that needs to be addressed. Reasons and possible solutions to this situation are discussed in the following paragraphs.

If I look at the factors behind a surge in private vehicles, the first reason that I see is convenience. You can start or stop your vehicle at will and plan your route according to the requirements. For example, you can stop your car at a supermarket while going back to your home from office. Secondly, it offers privacy and safety. You are safe from any pranksters and you can do your own work, listen to music or even talk to your clients regarding important business deals while moving in your own vehicle. Finally, a private vehicle accords a certain status to the user, which is an important point to consider given that man is a social animal.

There are some solutions possible to increase use of public transport. To start with, I think awareness of using public transport and its benefits should be highlighted more among the people. Secondly, regular public transport users should be given some perks like concession passes for their tickets. Thirdly, some extra luxurious features should be offered like first class travelling facilities, tight security and privacy in sections of all public transport vehicles and routes. Finally, government could hike some taxes for private vehicle owners or introduce toll taxes to discourage them from overusing their vehicles.

In conclusion, it is true that people prefer to use their own vehicles to commute. However, considering the concerns for the climate, we should take active steps to inspire people to use public transport more.



6. Some people spend a lot of money on things that are unnecessary, while, so many people in this world do not even get anything to eat.

Why do you think people do it?

What can be done to stop them from doing so?

Globalisation and rising affluence in certain countries have given us the luxury to become spendthrifts. This phenomenon is on the rise in all countries across the world. The reasons and probable suggestions are discussed in the paragraphs below.

If we throw light on the factors behind the overspending tendency of people, the first and foremost evident reason is the obsession to shop. Some people in big cities are always lured by fancy marketing techniques and displays of large stores and when they visit such places, they cannot stop themselves and go and shop for things they do not actually need. Also, shopping gives a momentary sense of power to them. Secondly, some people have grown up in such a culture where they have seen their parents going shopping without any valid reason or cause and they carry this 'legacy' of being spendthrifts. Lastly, consumers also buy things just for show off. Many families in this world are always enthusiastic to display their financial superiority and for the same, they keep exhibiting their purchasing power to their friends or peers.

However, there are some steps that we should undertake in order to change this situation. To begin with, proper education and understanding of the economics of spending should be imparted to the young. This helps them in comprehending the value of money and will prevent them from overspending. Moreover, they can also be shown the plight of people who are not lucky enough to get a day's meal. The benefits of social work and offering support to less privileged mankind are obvious and need to be brought to the attention of such consumers. Finally, some fine or penalty should be levied on people who waste things. For example, there is a fine in Germany if you waste too much food in a restaurant.

Conclusively, I think that stopping overspending is a highly subjective matter and hence, no direct or widespread actions can be taken to address the issue. However, certain steps like spreading awareness and inculcating good values in the youth can help in controlling this attitude.



7. Recent figures show that there is an increase in number of crimes among the young generation in big cities throughout the world.

What are the possible reasons for this?

Give suggestions to solve this problem.

Juvenile delinquency is one of the biggest problems of today's world. Prisons in the big cities of most countries are teeming with young criminals. This shows that youngsters are indulging in criminal activities at an increasingly alarming rate.

There are many reasons behind this. Firstly, youngsters are more vulnerable and their basic nature is adventurous. Crime requires daring and most youngsters commit their first crime to get the thrill. Later, unfortunately, they cannot come out of that swamp. In addition, movies also portray criminals as heroes that inspire the youth to imitate them. Secondly, globalization has created huge disparities in the world. Moreover it has ignited a thirst in people to earn more and do so really fast. Consequently, it leads more youngsters to adopt criminal activities because they think it to be the shortcut to riches.

Thirdly, the whole world is divided into many factions because of regional, racial, religious and intellectual reasons. Everywhere, the powerful person tries to dominate the weaker being. Such a scenario has given birth to a revolutionary tendency and even terrorism and it is the youth which is at the forefront of these unfortunate developments.

To solve this problem, we should impart quality education that can make youngsters more aware, sensitive and less vulnerable. Next, we should show them films or documentaries of miserable ends that criminals meet. This can instill fear in young minds and stop them from entering the world of crime. Finally, we as individuals should change ourselves and try to be more responsible about life, society and the world.

To sum up, I believe only giving suggestions and preaching may not provide the desired solution. However, if, each one as a person changes himself into a better individual then, I think, we can make this world a better place to live in and leave behind a rich heritage for future generations.



10. In many countries more and more young people are leaving school but are unable to find jobs.

What problems do you think youth unemployment causes for individual and for the society?

What measures should be taken to reduce the level of unemployment among youngsters?

It is a tradition in many societies that after finishing high school, youngsters find a job to fund their further studies. This experience makes them independent, mature and sincere. Nowadays, many school leavers are not getting a job and this is a rather worse development of our times.

Many difficulties can occur for an individual and a society when school leavers are unemployed. Firstly, unemployed youngsters are unable to gather the required funds for their tertiary education. This deprives them from universities and they are literate but not qualified or competent. Hence, they have to do a blue-collar job to survive. Secondly, such a scenario frustrates them and makes them rebel against the system. This frustration can lead to increase in crime. Thirdly, less number of graduates are able to fill the posts for the qualified people. This creates an imbalance in society and inhibits the economic, industrial and intellectual growth of the society. Finally, such imbalance stops the progress of education as a segment because universities cannot earn out of less students. This is dangerous for many research-oriented activities as universities become unable to finance them.

There are few suggestions to meet the solution of this problem. First, governments should enforce employers to reserve a proportion of their workforce for the school leavers. Second, many a times a school fresher cannot do a technical job. Therefore, some technical and practical employment oriented courses should be added in the school curriculum. Last, universities must award scholarships and offer flexible payment options to the students to motivate them to acquire tertiary education.

Finally, according to me, there are bad consequences if the school leavers remain unemployed. However, better legislation, better subjects offered at school and flexibility at the level of tertiary education can solve majority of the difficulties.



11. A lot of old people are suffering from loneliness these days. They also lack physical fitness.

What do you think are the reasons for these problems?

Can you think of possible solutions?

It is indeed true that number of old people is increasing rapidly in today's world. Thus, it is obvious that problems related to old age will also mount. I think, proper care and measures will enable us to deal with this situation.

There are several reasons why they feel lonely. To begin with, the concept of nuclear families is increasing speedily these days. Most joint families are breaking down into small units, which, in turn, oblige elderly people in the family to stay alone. Next, migration of young members of family for better career and academic options is very common now. This also creates loneliness for the seniors in the family.

Multiple factors are responsible for the ill health of the older people. To start with, many elders of today lived a stressful life when they were young. Such stress leaves its bad effects on the body, which surface faster when the body gets old. Secondly, pollution is increasing everywhere these days. It surely shows its harmful effects on the vulnerable bodies of old people.

On the other hand, I think there are some possible solutions to these problems. One of them is, governments across the world should give more medical support to elderly people so that they can live a healthier life. Moreover, they should be assisted with proper training about living more active lifestyle so that they do not feel lonely and they stay fit. Finally, arranging certain skill based trainings for them will surely help them to find some creative activities that keep them occupied.

All in all, even though problems of old people are increasing, I firmly believe that this can be controlled with the help of effective measures and joint efforts of the government and individuals.



12. The movement of people from agricultural areas to big cities has caused many problems at both places.

What are the reasons of this problem and how can it be solved?

It is a fact that every day, thousands of people across the world move to big cities of their country. They do so for various reasons but this situation needs to be addressed if we want to bring balance in society, economy and in our culture.

There are numerous reasons why people migrate to big cities from rural areas. First is the tremendous amount of employment and business opportunities available in the urban areas. Cities are densely populated and also have presence of most companies. This generally creates more vacancies and more options for entrepreneurs. Second, cities offer better infrastructure, better health and education services and transportation facilities. Finally, cities also have latest recreational facilities available. All these aspects lure people from nearby agrarian communities to migrate to cities and inspire them to settle down there for their entire life.

The problems that are thereby caused at the urban end are overcrowding of cities and disastrous overuse of resources while the rural context loses its economy and cultural depth. To begin with, we can find a solution to these in aiding the development of rural and agricultural areas. In addition, governments must improve the infrastructure of the countryside so that dwellers in those areas also enjoy better standards of living and good health and education facilities. Moreover, adequate employment opportunities should be created in rural areas so that people of such areas find it worth living in their own village and continue its traditions. Finally, urban infrastructure needs to keep pace with time as well and more civic responsibility should be inculcated in the people.

With the above mentioned steps a balance can be achieved in time so that a very high migration rate can be checked and overall development can be witnessed across all the areas of the country.



13. Most of the people aspire to have a successful career and a happy family life.

What problems are involved in combining a successful career and happy family life?

How to overcome such problems?

Life can be complete only if we have both- a successful career and a happy family life. This is a difficult balance to achieve for a number of reasons but there are certain solutions by way of which we can overcome these problems.

A successful career usually implies that people spend much longer hours at their desk than the stipulated office time. This means that one is not able to give sufficient time to one's family. Also, owing to deadlines and peer pressure there is accumulation of stress which expresses itself as misplaced anger in the presence of family. Thirdly, as people do not spend quality time with their loved ones there is alienation and as a result many families break or the children go astray and fall prey to bad habits. On the other hand if one tries to fulfil all demands of the family then it is not possible to deal with the responsibilities at work.

However, there are certain actions possible to address this problem. The first step in this regard is good time management. Much of our time goes waste because we do not have the ability and perseverance to complete tasks in the given hours. What is more, we need to organize, prioritize tasks and make 'to do' lists which have to be diligently followed. Many times it is observed that it is because of the sheer chaos in life that one is failing on both fronts of the office and home. Finally, one should invest energy in relationships to build strong bonds of trust that can take the pressure of one's absence or excess of work.

All in all, with these simple steps, I am sure that we can fulfil our dream of having both- a successful career and a happy home life.



14. It is generally seen that most working people do not do enough physical exercise.

What are the reasons behind this?

How can this problem be solved?

A very commonly seen phenomenon in the modern world is that everyone knows the importance of exercise in life yet very few people find the time to actually follow a daily routine of the same. As a result, most people do not get any exercise which is detrimental to their health in the long run.

The basic reasons behind this development are as follows: firstly, greater competition at the work place means that one has to put in long working hours. When employees do not even get enough sleep, it is rather impossible for them to make time for exercise. Secondly, a lot of machines aid our daily life right from the water pipeline that brings water to our taps to the washing machine, to the dishwasher and to cars etc. Thus, the opportunities of unconscious exercise are minimised as the energy spent on daily chores is considerably reduced with modern comforts. Thirdly, all modes of entertainment are sedentary; even children do not play outdoors now but prefer computer games and play stations. In addition, to refresh a tired mind, people would rather watch a film than go for a walk. So though their mind is rejuvenated, the body suffers.

The first solution to the problem is that we have to resolve to spend some time every day in conscious exercise. Next, a work-life balance has to be achieved so that we can pay adequate attention to our body. Finally, there is an ardent need to involve self in outdoor activities in the evening or the weekends so that the body does not suffer the consequences of passive entertainment.

To sum up, I believe that with the help of simple steps discussed above, we can certainly lead to a healthier life and a happier society.



15. Nowadays people show more anti-social behaviour and lack of respect to others.

What are the causes?

How could we improve the situation?

Modernity, in its wake, has also brought with it a very strict definition of individuality which makes people very self-centred. We see all around us that there is a general lack of respect for others and a lot of anti-social behaviour as well. The basic cause of this to my mind is careless parenting.

If children are not brought up in an atmosphere that teaches a sense of responsibility, there is no doubt that they will grow up into selfish and small minded adults. In an attempt to break free from the strict rule-bound parenting of the past, we have now gone to the opposite extreme of a freedom which has dissolved the boundaries between right and wrong. The parents, in their youth, feel that they have the right to follow their wishes and in turn inculcate the same in children. Thus, there is seen a rise in anti-social behaviour and disrespect. Further, the cinema and media are mirrors of this trend and since youth is highly influenced by them, they all add fuel to the fire.

The situation can only be improved if individuals understand that it is first of all their moral responsibility to live a constructive life and secondly it is required that they impart these values to the younger generation as well. Finally, young people must be taught in schools and colleges to check their sense of independence and realize their responsibility towards the society they live in.

Finally, I believe that improper parenting in certain cultures has created the problem of anti social behaviour. However, with proper education of values and morals, this issue can certainly be addressed.



16. In many countries, young people become richer, healthier and live longer, but they are less happy.

What are the reasons for this?

What can be done about it?

It is a commonly observed phenomenon that the young generation in many countries is earning a lot, is healthier and even lives longer but most of them are unhappy. The reasons for that and the possible solutions to address the same are discussed in the paragraphs below.

There are many reasons which lead to this state of unhappiness despite being successful and rich. First of all, in the modern age, individuality is given a high degree of importance and most people prefer to live in relative isolation so that they can work as they will and do not have to adjust to any other human being. Such isolation leads to loneliness and depression. Secondly, free market economies attract the consumer in all of us and in a rush to buy all we can, we become very materialistic and competitive. This development motivates us to earn more than others and this gives rise to negative emotions of jealousy and vengeance which lead to unhappiness. Thirdly, the unit of a family is slowly dissolving away. People not only remain distant from colleagues but also do not wish to adjust to family members that are the older generation or even children. Consequently, divorce rates and childlessness have been increasing in all such countries.

However, the situation is still not out of hand. If we strike a good work-life balance we can be successful as well as happy. Moreover, effort has to be made to reach out to others in the family, in the friend circle and at the work place. Furthermore, we should try to grow spiritually to understand that more material wealth does not mean more happiness. Finally, we should make time for exercising, meditation and social interaction. These help us to get a stronger foothold in life and be happy.

To sum up, in my opinion, with proper care and maintenance of work and life equilibrium, we can certainly make a happier, content and healthier society.



17. It is observed that some ex-prisoners commit crimes after being released from the prison.

What do you think is the cause?

How can it be solved?

It is common observation that many criminals turn out to be repeat offenders. This is a huge problem for governments of most countries and it is essential to look into the causes and solutions of the same.

Firstly, committing of a crime is a result of a certain kind of psychological attitude which, if not treated, can lead to a repeating of the past offences even after suffering punishment. Secondly, a person who has been to jail is subject to social alienation as he loses respect in the community he comes from. As a result, when he or she returns, there is a feeling of loss of belonging which can lead to frustration and criminal tendencies. Thirdly, sometimes social causes like weak governance, civil war or economic strife lead to crime and even after the jail term of a person is over, these causes may still be present and returning to the same context may force a person to take to crime repeatedly.

The first solution to this problem that comes to my mind is that jails should not only be confinement cells but also reformatories. Prisoners have to be extended help in the form of psychological and spiritual counselling so that the violent and anti-social tendencies in them can be removed and they walk out as better human beings. Moreover, friends and family have to make a sincere effort to watch and guide the activities of such people. Furthermore, if a social or political cause is responsible for the crime then there has to be an attempt on part of the government or social reformists to improve the situation at hand.

Finally, I believe that this problem can certainly be solved to a great extent with the help of proper care at governmental and social level.



6. MISCELLANEOUS (24)

1. University lecturers are now able to put their lectures on the internet for students to read and so the importance of attending face-to-face lectures has been reduced.

Do you believe that the use of the internet in formal education is a good idea?

What future effects will the internet have on academic study?

Internet has become inevitable in accessing information and communication in today's world. It is applied in almost all the aspects of life hence education is not an exception. University lecturers have started uploading lectures on World Wide Web. According to me, it is a welcome step however; it does not seem to serve the genuine purpose of classroom education.

Usage of Internet cannot be advantageous for a majority of students in many ways. Firstly, Internet is a one-way communication. Thus, it creates a passive type of learning atmosphere and science has already proved that passive learning cannot yield fruitful results. Secondly, studying lectures on the Internet cannot give the charm of a classroom environment where a lecturer can solve the difficulties of students and increase their level of understanding. Thirdly, Internet requires computer and electricity that can be expensive for many students.

In addition to this, the system itself offers some drawbacks i.e. sitting against the computer screen for longer hours is not good for our eyes and back. Next, it is only a visual media that ends up making the study mechanical and stereotypical. Consequently, it reduces the student's interest in the study.

On the other hand, learning lectures on Internet offers some advantages. Firstly, they can be attended and viewed by so many people who cannot come physically to the classroom for example: disabled students, working professionals and foreign students. Secondly, it provides convenience; they can study at their ease and can use navigational tools on the computer to browse through the whole document. Finally it also saves time of going to the university.

To conclude, I believe that internet is useful in many ways. It may be used extensively in future. However, it is certainly not the best way of imparting education as it has more drawbacks than benefits.

One more answer

Over the past few years, computer technology has started to change many aspects of our lives. One of these is our approach to teaching and learning. Many people believe

that the internet will greatly enhance students' lives but in my opinion, the costs will outweigh the benefits.

One future effect of the internet on academic study is that the level of the lecturer/student contact that we are used to may be reduced. This might happen simply because students do not need to spend so much time on the university campus. The same may be true of lecturers. If they are able to put their lectures on the World Wide Web, they may choose to do this from their home and so they are less available for consultation and thus, interaction with their students will be affected to a great extent. In my view this would be a great disadvantage. In my home country, tutors usually stress the importance of regular, informal meetings and student's work could suffer if efforts are not made to maintain these.

Apart from the negative impact that the Internet may have on student/lecturer relationships, I think we also have to consider the disadvantages to students' health. Studying is by nature a very sedentary activity involving long hours of reading books and writing assignments. In addition, these activities are usually done alone.

Furthermore, going to campus offers students a change of scenery, a bit of exercise, and an opportunity to meet and socialize with other students. If it is no longer necessary to leave home because lectures are available on the Internet, then students may suffer physically and mentally because of this change.

To sum up, I appreciate that the Internet will add value in imparting education, I do not agree that it is the best means of transmitting educational information and I think we have to put up effective guards against developing an unhealthy dependence on it.

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2. In most countries, the number of plant and animal species is declining. What is causing this?

What can we do to change the situation?

It is indeed a disheartening piece of information for the entire world that we are losing variety and numbers in both animal and plant species. There are some man-made fac-

tors responsible for this situation. However, appropriate measures can certainly help in solving this problem.

According to me there are three main reasons behind the loss of variety in both plants and animals. First of them is deforestation. In an urge to develop infrastructure, governments pay a lot of attention to urbanisation, special economic zones, industrial estates and power plants. Thousands of trees and plants are cut to construct them. As a result, a variety of plants die. Consequently, animals that rely and live on such plants also die as their prime source of food and shelter is lost. Secondly, globalisation has promoted immense industrial and economic growth, which, in turn has given rise to a new phenomenon called "Global Warming", which is responsible for disturbance in weather cycles and causes species of plants and animals to go extinct. Finally, increasing population across the world is also accountable for the loss of plants and animals because most fertile land is used to grow edible and cash crops and thus the land for other plants and their dependant animals is snatched away.

However, this situation can be improved by taking some steps like creating sanctuaries for plants and animals; breeding endangered species in controlled environments, implementing strict legislation favouring the protection of such species and so on. But, on top of it, if we, the humans do not understand the importance of our companions, the situation may not improve any time soon.

Finally, I must admit that the most intelligent creation of the nature is the most dangerous enemy of species that coexist with him and unless he awakens, enlightens, it is indeed difficult to envisage a brighter future of this earth.



3. We have often thought of creating an ideal society, but most of the times we have failed in making this happen.

What is your opinion about an ideal society?

How can we create an ideal society?

The term 'ideal society' seems to be very vague because everyone perceives ideal

things on his/her own mental, social and cultural conditioning. I firmly believe that this is the main reason why we have not been able to create an ideal society because what is ideal according to me may not be ideal according to someone else living in the same city. Consequently, deficiency of a common direction and common goals shall never let happen the creation of an ideal society.

My understanding of an ideal society is fairly simple and easily comprehensible. First, I believe that here everyone should have the right to basic necessities like food, shelter, education, health services and an easy access to most services offered by the government including a public transportation system. Secondly, an ideal society is free from criminal and immoral activities and all individuals live in harmony and peace. Lastly, the goal of every individual is to attain spiritual salvation through the path or religion he/she feels comfortable with and there should be tolerance to allow the coexistence of all.

To create such a society, we need to open more and more meditation centres rather than restaurants or hotels. I believe that easy access to spiritual resources would lead most to attain high levels of consciousness. Moreover, we can also modify our education system and base it on spirituality and self realization, which will teach children to stay out of all types of fear and anger.

Finally, the efforts of making an ideal society have been taking place since our origin and I believe we are doing better with time because in today's world, we see our life styles are getting similar. This is a pivotal step in bringing uniformity because it will bring homogeneity in the efforts of creating an ideal society.



4. Some organisations and companies require their employees to wear a uniform.

What kinds of jobs require uniforms?

What are the disadvantages of wearing uniforms at work?

Creating an identity is one of the most essential requirements for many companies and institutions. Asking employees to wear a uniform is one of these techniques. However, it

is not essential for all types of jobs and one has to apply the dictum judiciously.

I think almost all public sector jobs need uniforms because this helps people in identifying them and approaching them instantly. Jobs like that of the police, public transportation, hospitals, government offices and many more need uniforms. This smoothens administration also, for example, when a police cop is present in his uniform, a criminal would be afraid to commit a crime in his presence. Furthermore, in crowded places like government hospitals, patients and even staff members can easily point out concerned persons with the help of the uniform they wear. The same is true for some other jobs as well. Employees in hospitality, aviation or any other establishment where interaction with people is very high should wear a uniform to offer better services and generate reputation for the organisation in the minds of customers.

However, there are certain disadvantages of the uniform as well. One of them is, similar clothing creates monotony in the work environment, which may affect performance of workers. Next, employees can never hide their identity and that can be a risk in some situations where the customers decide to rebel.

Conclusively, making uniform compulsory is not bad provided the organisation has well justified needs of uniforms for their employees. However, I assert that compulsion should be judicious and well justified toward all who are concerned.



5. Some people think that paying regular tax is enough to contribute to the society. Others argue that being a citizen, there are more responsibilities, as well, to fulfil.

What is your opinion?

It is true that paying regular taxes is one of the fundamental duties of a responsible citizen. However, the duties are certainly not limited to that; a responsible citizen does far more than that for his country.

Paying regular and accurate tax is the most accepted and well respected way of serving the nation by most denizens. They think their government has adequate administrative

staff to carry out all the functions of public interest. In this process all a government needs is money and that is paid by the civilians in forms of taxes. I also support that it is one of the best and the most effective ways of serving the nation.

However, I think a good citizen's responsibilities are not only confined to tax payment. They should offer their services in other areas to their authorities as well. Firstly, every good citizen must abide by the laws of his country to help the administration in carrying out its duties and with this they can set a good example. Secondly, one should always take good care of the public property and use the resources judiciously in order to prevent unnecessary maintenance expenses and to help in preserving natural resources, respectively.

Next, citizens must take active part in elections and choose the right person to rule the nation. This is immensely important because the right leader can enhance the progress of the state. Finally, all civilians should also prevent others from breaking the law and inform the police if someone is found to be doing so.

In conclusion, I admit that paying tax is an important duty that every person must fulfil, however, there are other important and essential responsibilities that all civilians must follow in order to make their countries grow in all dimensions.



6. Nowadays people are forgetting national celebrations and enjoying more on their own on the days that are personally important to them.

What are the reasons behind this and is it a good or a bad trend?

It is a commonly observed phenomena that in each country celebrations of national importance such as independence day, birthdays of national leaders or even national festivals are losing importance in the lives of people. People prefer to celebrate their own anniversaries and weddings rather than spend time and energy on national occasions. According to me this is not a good trend.

National festivals bind a whole population together as one. Also they carry within them our shared history and traditions. For example the independence day of India is a day to

remember our freedom struggle and all those who laid down their lives for our freedom. Festivals like Diwali and Holi are commemorations of events in our mythology and these stories belong to the history of our civilization and not us alone.

If the whole country celebrates an occasion there is a widespread festive spirit and a jovial atmosphere all around. We feel a part of a larger family as compared to events that we celebrate at home be it our birthdays or anniversaries. In any case with the advent of advanced communication technology our lives have become less social and loneliness, stress and frustration are very commonly seen in people. Occasions of national importance now offer us that rare opportunity to feel that we belong.

There is no doubt that each one has the right to celebrate personal and family events with as much pomp and show as they want. Family functions are important for our psychological well being and general happiness.

In conclusion, I feel that human beings cannot entirely give up the pleasure of personal celebrations. But if they do not pay attention to national events and treat them only as public holidays it would be injustice to our duties as a citizen and an emotional and psychological setback for our personality.



7. Write an essay on the effects of pollution and daily waste created by humans.

Explain in detail how it is affecting us.

What measures should we take to make things better in this regard?

All kinds of pollution and discarded garbage constitute one of the most serious problems of today. If they are not addressed soon, they can create a hell on earth for all of us.

First, let's look at the harmful effects created by the waste and pollution. The air we breathe, water we consume and land that we farm on are all negatively affected by these. When natural endowments get contaminated and contain harmful impurities in them, they can cause life threatening diseases and disabilities in humans. In addition, animals, plants and other vegetation on the planet are also victims of it. As a result, the

food we eat is losing its nutritious value. Finally, countless animals and birds succumb to such polluted climate and this is a big blow to the ecosystem of the earth.

There are certain measures we must take in order to reduce the harmful effects of pollution and waste. To begin with, we ought to use as much recyclable material as possible. This helps us in controlling the waste generated on the earth and will also help the resources on the earth from getting used up. Next, more emphasis should be given to the invention of biodegradable material so that we can live a more environment friendly life. Moreover, proper management of industrial waste is the call of the hour. Maximum damage to the land and the water is done by improperly managed industrial garbage. Furthermore, more usage of energy efficient vehicles is also a need of the day. With the help of them, we can control air pollution.

Finally, we must understand that we do not own the earth. It is a legacy, a heritage that we have to maintain for our future generations. Hence, we ought to take actions that lead us to a cleaner, greener and healthier earth to live and flourish on.



8. Some people believe that young people today know more of what is happening in the world compared to the youth of the past.

What is the position in your country?

Give your opinion on how important it is for the young people to know about the happenings in the world.

Owing to the phenomenal revolution in the field of communication in the last few decades, youngsters today can easily update themselves about the events happening in the world. Apart from conventional media like newspaper or magazines, today's youngsters use communication devices like smart phones, tablet PCs and laptops. In my opinion, it is indeed a welcome development for the youth and for the society as a whole.

The youth are more aware of current happenings in different aspects of social life, economy and politics. In India, with the mobile and internet connectivity available in small towns and villages, now youth of these areas are well informed of the latest devel-

opments in their immediate context and those at the national and international level. As an Indian I feel really happy to have witnessed this transition.

This knowledge plays a vital role in the economic, social and intellectual growth of the youth. Staying in touch with the latest developments in the fields of education, employment and all other areas of their interest motivates them to spend their time in a more diligent and creative manner. This is the reason why people from the countryside are suddenly coming into the limelight as with the help of the latest gadgets, they get far more opportunities to showcase their talent to the world as compared to times gone by.

Finally, I must say that the apt saying "knowledge is power" is being realised at its best in today's era. According to me, knowledge is the only tool which can bring equality and harmony in the world and therefore it is of prime importance for our youth to be well informed.



9. Happiness is considered very important in life.

Why is it so difficult to define?

What factors are important in achieving happiness?

Happiness is the positive response of a person in a given situation to his surroundings and/or happenings. It is a personal and a subjective feeling because it comes from being in tune with reality. It is a very important aspect of life because everyone tries to be happy all times follows different ways to achieve this goal.

For every individual, happiness means different things and hence people perceive happiness in their own way, which is based on their psychological conditioning. It is not surprising that in a given condition, at a given time, two different individuals may react in opposite ways. This shows that it is next to impossible to give a universal definition of happiness.

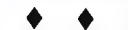
There are many factors in achieving happiness. According to some, material wealth is the best way to achieve happiness. They try to acquire all the material possessions to

be happy. Next, some people go for health. They think that only a healthy body can ultimately lead to happiness.

Furthermore, some opt for socializing to achieve happiness. They try to be happy by getting respect and enjoying the company of others. However, all these ways have their limitations and such happiness withers quickly.

Finally, some follow the spiritual path to be happy. Spiritual path teaches us to go beyond the limitations of emotions and psychological conditioning of the mind. By doing so, we can get eternal happiness, which is not affected by any feelings and we are always happy or in other words 'enlightened'.

All in all, there are many ways to achieve happiness. However, according to me, only an objective, spiritual and beyond-the-mind insight can make a person eternally happy, which is the first step towards salvation.



10. It is a general assumption that education is vital for individual development and well being of the societies.

What should education consist of, in order to achieve/complete these functions?

Discuss and give your opinion.

It is certainly true that education does not mean technical knowledge. It has a much wider meaning that covers individual development and betterment of societies. Education cannot be 'given' but it can be imparted. Hence, to fulfil these requirements, it should have comprehensive content and efficient methods of imparting the same need to be employed.

Education plays a vital role in conditioning the minds of students. If the content is deficient, it leaves the students' minds blank, which will be then conditioned in unimaginable ways. To avoid this, apart from technical subjects, education must include subjects that help them in understanding practical life. For example: communication skills, management skills, social and religious responsibilities, and awareness about the good and bad

aspects of life need to be taught. Moreover, it should help them in dealing with social and real life problems by inculcating the habit of reading books and knowing about works of social workers and leaders.

In addition to this, the way of imparting education is also important because good content cannot satisfy the objectives if not imparted properly. Hence, classroom training is not sufficient. Here, we can use technology to facilitate the learning by way of movies or documentaries; arrange lectures of spiritual orators; train the teachers to improve their skills and make the learning interactive by various innovative methods. We have to show the truth of the world to the students and by employing efficient practical training programs, we can plant the seeds of a better individual and thereby a better society.

Finally, according to me, education serves as the basic mould for any individual. It has to have all required aspects that can shape the student into a responsible individual, which, ultimately can lead to a progressive world.



11. Many Kinds of animals have a danger of dying out.

Do you think of it as a case?

Give your view on how government and individuals can prevent some animals from becoming extinct.

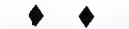
Animals are creation of nature. If any species of animals are dying, I think it is a case and has to be given enough attention. There are many reasons of our doing that are causes of it. However, such a situation can be taken care of by being responsible in some ways so that animal species can survive on this earth.

The government can play a vital role in this case by identifying the endangered species and reasons behind their reduction. After that, they can set out to take necessary actions. Firstly, they should develop sanctuaries for example, in India; the government has developed a sanctuary in Gujarat for lions. The number of lions has increased rapidly as a result. Secondly, they can identify people responsible for the extinction and punish them severely to set an example for other unidentified culprits. Thirdly, government can

also fund zoos and research centres to breed endangered species thereby increasing them in number. Finally, governments can also start public awareness programs so that a wave of sympathy and support can be generated to make the job of preservation easier.

At an individual level, we can do so many things. First, we can help government and other organizations by voluntarily participating in awareness programs and draw attention of other people towards the issue. Next, we can also inform the government about some people or activities that are harmful to animals. Moreover, we can donate generously to organizations that support in programs like research, breeding and awareness of and about endangered species.

Finally, I strongly assert that we have to consider endangered species as a case and not a minor problem because we live in an interconnected world- the loss of one affects all others, even us.



12. Most people spend a majority of their adult life in their workplace and hence, job satisfaction is an important part of an individual's well-being.

What factors contribute to the job satisfaction?

How realistic is the expectation of job satisfaction on part of the workers?

It is indeed true that almost all of us spend a major proportion of our adult life at our workplace. In this case, to attain satisfaction from the work that we are doing is extremely important.

Certain aspects are considered vital in achieving job satisfaction. First of them is money. All of us work to get money and it is extremely important for all workers to get paid properly. Many a times, workers are dissatisfied with the improper payment standards of their employers. Second, everyone aspires for respect and status. Most workers expect good acceptance from the society for the job they do. It is observed that in some cases, status and respect often are even over salary. The last is individual inclination towards a specific vocation. Some people have an innate liking towards some field of work and if they are kept away from it, they often underperform.

However, it is often noticed that, at times, expectations of workers are not justifiable. Often, they simply compare perks and facilities that employees get in other organisations rather than evaluating what they are giving to their own company. Consequently, they develop pseudo-dissatisfaction which ultimately affects their work life and their performance.

In conclusion, I admit that satisfaction at work is indeed an essential aspect of most of us. Thus, it should be addressed properly by employers in terms of being fair with everyone and by employees in terms of having justified expectations. If this balance is attained, the organisation will grow at an unprecedented speed.



13. Lifestyle and culture of different countries have become more similar.

Why is it so?

Is it a positive or negative development?

It is a fact that lifestyles and culture of various countries have become identical. There are many reasons behind it. Such turnout seems good on the first glimpse. However, it has negative impacts on the long-term progress.

There are many factors for such similarities. First, globalization has encouraged many people to travel and migrate to other countries. Second, Multinational companies have long started to market and manufacture their products across the globe. This has brought many similarities in the way we live and use the products. Finally, satellite television channels inspire people to adopt the lifestyle and culture of developed countries by promoting it to earn more revenue. However, such development looks good only superficially.

There are many negative implications of such adoption of lifestyle and cultures on the people of developing countries. Once they become used to living such a lifestyle, they prefer to migrate to developed countries where the standard of living is higher and those who cannot do so may lead dissatisfied lives. This can also motivate them to adopt illegal ways. Every culture and lifestyle has negative aspects as well. When we

adopt them they also bring those negative traits to our life. In many developing countries people have forgotten their original religious festivals and started celebrating Christmas and other festivals of western countries. It is not wrong as such but ignorance of their historic festivals is a warning bell for their vernacular cultures and languages.

On the other hand, it has some positive effects also but they are limited to the developed countries. They can market their lifestyle and related products and sell those things aggressively. This brings profits only to those companies and nations who are selling and not to those who are spending.

To sum up, we cannot deny the fact that day by day our lifestyle and culture are integrating into each other. However, according to me, this development is negative in long run and in the future we may see a trend reversal.



14. Figures show that in some countries the proportion of population of age 15 or younger is increasing.

What could be the current and future effects of this development on those countries?

In many countries, it is seen that birth rate and the newborn survival rate have increased because of better medical facilities. This has shot up the proportion of people of 15 or less in the population of those countries. It has some stiff present impacts; however, the pains can be compensated for in the future.

Presently, this situation leaves many negative impacts on those countries. First, higher number of young people require more schools. Governments have to invest a lot in setting up educational institutes. Second, these people are more prone to diseases and they require better and intensive health care that includes vaccines and medicines. Finally, without contributing to the economy, these youngsters consume bigger resources available in the country. As a result of all these, governments have to allocate a sizable proportion of their income to nurture them. Consequently, they have to increase taxes to invest in the future of their juveniles.

If the youngsters are nurtured well, they can help their country grow in the future because they will be educated and equipped with higher physical, mental and technical skills that can drive the economic growth of the nation. This growth can place their nation in privileged class of developed countries.

However, there can be dangerous outcomes if youngsters are not nurtured well. They become dissatisfied with the country. As a result, either they migrate to a better country or may be even go on to indulge in crime. For example, in Afghanistan, so many young and illiterate people are becoming terrorists and are a danger for the world.

Finally, looking at the scenario, I assert that the countries that have a higher juvenile population must invest heavily in them because this investment will bear fruits of economic development in the future for them as well as for the world.



- 15. Some businesses observe that people who just finished college have a hard time interacting with colleagues and working as a team.**

What are your suggestions to address this problem?

Youngsters have daring dreams and ambitions when they enter the corporate world right after college. In some organizations, they face difficulty in relating to the ground reality and contribute as a team member with their co-workers. This problem can be solved with some effective steps that should be taken at both the educational and the organizational level.

At the college level, there are some actions possible to make the young graduate a competitive employee. First, subjects like marketing, communication skills and organizational behaviour should be included in the course curriculum in all disciplines. These courses enhance students' skills to interact with people, improve their perception of a company and sharpen their abilities to cooperate with teammates. Next, in every specialization, there has to be a corporate project that enables students to work in a company as an apprentice and this shall improve candidates' exposure to the practical working pattern. This phase helps a lot in dissolving the ambiguity in students' minds, between theory and practice.

At an organizational level also there are some steps possible. First, every employee must be given intensive in-house training where he must be explained about the structure, strategies, and working pattern of the company and the expectations from him. After this, the employee can work as a trainee in the company under supervision of a management team made up of equal proportion of senior and junior skilled workers of the organization. This enables the trainee to feel comfortable and to interact freely with them. Finally, everyday there should be a precise schedule given to trainees to leave no room for confusion.

All in all, I assert that with the help of proper training at both college and company level, we can certainly eradicate these difficulties and make the corporate world a better and comfortable place to work for our fresh graduates.



- 16. People in the past lived a long and healthy life.**

Give some reasons why they lived longer.

What should the society do to use the ability of elderly people in a positive way?

There are no doubts that people in the past lived a longer and more importantly a healthier life. They did so because of many factors. This essay contains a discussion of both - the reasons for their better life and suggestions to involve old people.

In the past, lifestyle was a major factor that helped people to live a peaceful, stable and tension free life. For instance, working hours in the past were limited and people followed a disciplined approach in their routine chores including sleeping and meal times. Such an approach prevented them from anxiety, blood pressure, indigestion and other numerous psychosomatic disorders. Moreover, they lived in small towns where everything was available at short distances so modes of transport were limited. Thus, there was far less pollution that also guarded them against many ophthalmic, respiratory and skin diseases and helped them in living a longer and healthier life.

Finally, their eating habits were healthier and their diet included fruits, vegetables and

other traditional and seasonal preparations, compared to today's life where the diet largely comprises of junk food, colas, chocolates, ice-creams and so on. This difference is accountable for the higher intake of nutrients like vitamins and minerals by the earlier generations compared to the present humans and helped them to live healthy and free of diseases.

Now, the higher number of older people in today's society is becoming a burning issue for many countries because they are thought of as dependant population. In my opinion this is a pessimistic view. The older population can contribute to the society by taking up consulting and counselling jobs. They can also be a help at social service centres. Finally within a household they can take care of their grandchildren and impart knowledge and their experience to the youngsters.

Thus, I firmly believe that we should learn healthy eating habits from the generations of the past and make our life more fulfilling. Also, we should respect our elders and give them a creative role in the present day social setup.



17. What would you prefer? A job, which is highly rewarded with monetary gains or a job that focuses more on social service?

Give your opinion with reasons and examples.

It cannot be denied that man is a social animal. We are responsible for ourselves, our family and our society. Hence, it is very important for us to do a job that helps us in fulfilling all responsibilities. I think, a job with monetary gains is more helpful in attaining all the objectives.

When we earn more, we can cater to social concerns more effectively. Firstly, to do a job with higher income requires a lot of hard work for the organization and the industry. This leads to a contribution to the economic development of our country. In addition, we also pay higher taxes to the government. Such money is used by the government in the development of various facilities for our countrymen. By doing so, we are fulfilling our social responsibilities.

Secondly, we can use a proportion of our money for the well being of our society. We can donate the money to various institutions like, charitable trusts and hospitals, temples, NGOs, orphanages and so on. In addition, at times we can directly help people with the money, for example, paying fees for poor students and patients, building houses, setting up employment opportunities etc. Such activities can give us satisfaction as we fulfil our social responsibility and they can be done well by money.

On the other hand, there are so many issues where money is of no use at all. Many jobs include social concern and not high in monetary gains like; the army, police, NGOs, or even independent social workers. In such jobs we can put physical efforts to help people, society and the country. Such jobs involve a risk to life also but they too bring in respect and happiness and a real sense of achievement and fulfilment.

Finally, I prefer jobs with higher income because I want to use a big chunk of it to help people in upgrading their life and thereby contribute to the economy of my country.



18. Even though there is a lot of advancement in the field of science and technology, we greatly value artists that are musicians, painters and writers.

What can arts give us about life that science and technology cannot?

Since his existence, man has been searching for ways of entertainment, long lasting happiness, fulfilment and salvation. To attain this, he has developed so many vocations. Materialistic pleasure and comfort through science and technology is one of the ways that gives us subjective, short-lived happiness. However, arts can help us in attaining fulfilment in our life.

There are ample things that science and technology are unable to give us about life. Firstly, art is an expression of imagination of its creator. As it comes from the heart, it is a pure form and always believed to be close to nature. Art is a valuable asset we have received from our ancestors.

What is more, art can provide us entertainment, relaxation and it reenergizes us to work

hard and lead a better life. That's why we can see so many professionals who work for more than 12-14 hours a day, spend some time to pursue art because by doing so they can express their emotions in a creative way.

Moreover, when we pursue arts, our creation, contribution or appreciation gives us satisfaction and fulfilment. Even today we appreciate artists like Pablo Picasso, Leonardo Da Vinci and so on. Contrarily, will we really remember the first computer and mobile phones in the future? In addition, we all know that arts existed centuries before whereas science and technology did not.

Finally, it is a fact that arts carry the heritage of our culture and traditions and that's why they are very close to our life as compared to science and technology that can give only comforts. I think it is possible to imagine life without science and technology (even today, so many tribes are living such a life) however; it is absolutely impossible to imagine a life without arts.



- 19. These days, scientists can tell whether a child will become criminal or not by examining the child at an age of three.**

Do you agree that crime is a product of human nature?

Do you think we can stop children from becoming criminals?

It is indeed a fact that today's brain mapping and psychometric techniques are extremely effective in judging someone's nature and their possible future as well. Such techniques are also raising lot of questions in the minds of people regarding the origin of crime and the possibility of preventing child from being a criminal.

However, I largely disagree with the notion that crime is a product of human nature. There are countless examples in this world where a person commits a crime under the influence of circumstances. For example, if one's existence is jeopardised he commits a crime just to defend himself. In addition, it is also observed that there are very few people who like to commit crime. Generally, most criminals also avoid crime and try to get their work done by creating fear in others' minds. On the other hand, it is also true

that a minute proportion of criminals are abnormal and sadists who like to give pain to others and so they commit a crime.

I think there are certain ways that can help us in preventing children from becoming criminals. Firstly, children should be educated and groomed properly. This goes a long way in preventing them from breaking the law when they become adults. Secondly, inculcation of morals and values is essential for transforming a criminally inclined child to a sober and responsible citizen. However, as we have discussed earlier, certain crimes are done under abnormal situations and such crimes are extremely difficult to eliminate.

Finally, I personally do not agree that crime is a product of mind. However, I do agree that proper training and conditioning of children in their childhood will certainly help us in reducing the number of criminals on this earth.



- 20. While visiting foreign countries, visitors should take full advantage of learning the culture and traditions of that country.**

How can they learn about the culture and traditions of the host country?

Why do some visitors strive to learn the same and others are not interested at all?

Visiting a foreign country is probably easiest now compared to anytime in the past. This has also generated interest in some people to study the culture and traditions of different countries they visit. In this essay, ways to learn the local culture and mindsets of people regarding the same are discussed.

There are several ways through which the host country's customs and culture can be learnt. Firstly, visitors can interact more and more with local people, visit cultural and historical places where the local way of living and belief systems are easily accessible. Secondly, visitors may go to local libraries where they can read books and other printed material related to the culture. Thirdly, they should also go to museums, attend cultural events like folk dance, opera, drama etc. and also see vernacular architecture.

On the other hand, there are certain reasons why some people do not show any keenness in learning about local culture. To begin with, learning and understanding about the way of living of people of other countries is completely subjective. Some people do not have any interest in it. Moreover, some people go abroad for business or studies or some go to participate in an event like a sports meet. Now, for such people it is next to impossible to spare time for any other aspect as it may hinder their actual purpose of visit.

Finally, several ways are there whereby we can study foreign culture while we are on a visit to a particular country. However, some cannot do so because of their own limitations and/or likings.



21. Violent films and TV programs are among the most popular forms of entertainment today.

Why do you think these programs are so popular?

Propose possible reasons to explain the large number of their viewers.

It is indeed unfortunate that people these days watch programs that are full of violence. As they are gaining popularity, commercial film and TV producers are trying to introduce such content even more.

There are several reasons why such programs are gaining their viewership. Firstly, life in today's world has become stressful, hectic and competitive. In addition, we have developed a wonderful virtue of comparison. All these factors force us to work harder and better all the time. In this rush, most of us have to suppress our anger and other emotions on regular basis. As we suppress anger so much, such mindset motivates us to watch action packed programs more and more. By doing so, most of us can vent out our suppressed anger and psychologically, it is safe for the human mind as well.

In addition, in real world, bad often wins over good but in films and TV programs, fortunately, good wins over bad and if that victory is violent, it is bound to grab more eyeballs. Finally, owing to strict legislation and surveillance, violence is almost eliminated from

real life in most countries. Thus, watching such action on a screen of a cinema or a TV is the only option left for anyone who wants to see it.

In conclusion, it is indeed true that the numbers of people who view violence on screen are increasing worldwide. I think the reasons behind this rise are evident and hence, I personally do not think that it is a bad trend.



22. It was revealed in a recent survey that happiness levels in developing countries are higher than those of developed countries.

Why is this so?

According to all the Holy Scriptures, ancient epics and religious books and testaments, it is happiness that the entire human race is after. Thus, variety of debates, surveys and speculations take place about happiness. I am not surprised by the poll that says people in the second world are happier than the people of the first world.

I think we all commit a fundamental mistake of linking happiness with money. Money can never give long lasting happiness. Hence, this can be a reason that explains the result of the survey.

People in developed countries live a lavish lifestyle where they do not indulge in much physical activities which can help them in burning calories. In addition, cut throat competition at intellectual level and vigour to outperform always give stress and related diseases like hypertension, diabetes and so on. Such style of living does not permit the people of developed countries to enjoy their economic status. I think these are the reasons why people in developed countries may live longer but they fall sick more.

On the other hand, people of a developing country often have higher satisfaction levels and lesser demands from life. Moreover, the intensity of social interaction is also very high, which motivates them to share their happiness and joy with each other.

Finally, it is rightly said that what you share with others often comes back to you in multiplied form. First world people share competitiveness and stress with others whereas

Section 4

This section contains:

- List of linking words or connectors or cohesive devices
- List of useful books for IELTS preparation for candidates
- IELTS Writing Band Descriptors

List of linking words or connectors or cohesive devices

| Sequence | Consequence or showing results | Addition | Referring or example |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| First or firstly | Hence | Also | For example |
| To initiate with | Thus | And | Particularly |
| First of all | Therefore | In addition | For instance |
| In the first place | So | To add | Namely |
| To begin with | As a result | Moreover | To illustrate |
| The first (reason/factor) is | On this/that account | What is more | A (good) case in point |
| Initially | It follows that | Furthermore | In particular |
| Next | Eventually | Likewise | Such as |
| Afterwards | Consequently | Similarly | To exemplify |
| Then | As a consequence | As well as | Just as |
| After this/that | Thereby | And then | That is to say |
| Earlier/later | In that case | Too | |
| Following this/that | Admittedly | Not only... but | |
| Finally/lastly | | Besides this/that | |

| Showing similarity or equating | Contrast | Contrast | Showing certainty |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| In the same way | However | Nonetheless | Of course |
| Accordingly | On the other hand | Alternatively | Obvious |
| Likewise | Rather | In contrast | Undoubtedly |
| Equally important | On the contrary | Whereas | Plainly |
| Similarly | But | Yet | Certainly |
| | Otherwise | Conversely | Unquestionably |
| | In spite of | Nevertheless | Assuredly |
| | Despite | While | Without question |
| | Though | Whilst | Beyond question |
| | Although | Even if | Indisputably |
| | Even though | | Irrefutably |

| Condition | Reason | Summary | Expressing time | Definition |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| If | Due to | To conclude | When | Means |
| Unless | Owing to | In conclusion | Whenever | Consists of |
| Whether | The reason why | To sum up | Since | Contains |
| So that | Cause | In summary | Before | That is |
| Provided that | Leads to | To summarise | After | Refers to |
| For | As | Finally | Ago | Is |
| Depending on | So | In a nutshell | Until | |
| | Since | In short | Meanwhile | |
| | In other words | To recapitulate | While | |
| | Due to | All in all | As soon as | |
| | | In closing | No sooner than | |
| | | Lastly | Just as | |

♦ ♦ ♦

Writing paragraphs in an accurate manner it absolutely essential.

The correct method is that you should either leave a space when the paragraph begins (it is known as British style of writing) or you should leave a line before the new paragraph begins (it is known as American style of writing.) However some students do both, they leave space before the new paragraph and they also leave a line when the new paragraph begins. Both, the correct and incorrect methods are shown below.

Incorrect method :-

[illegible]

Correct methods of using paragraphs in writing. :-

| Method 1 (American) | | Method 2 (British) |
|--|--|--|
| Xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx | | Xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx |
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List of useful books for IELTS Preparation :-

For IELTS Speaking Test Practice :

The Ultimate Guide to IELTS Speaking (with free video DVD) By Parthesh Thakkar

For complete practice tests:

Cambridge IELTS 1-9

101 Helpful Hints for IELTS (Academic and General Training)

404 Helpful Hints for IELTS (Academic and General Training)

IELTS On Track (Academic and General Training)

IELTS Practice Tests Plus 1,2 and 3

A book for IELTS

IELTS Testbuilder 1 and 2

IELTS Master Class BY MACMILLAN

For Grammar :

Essential English grammar for beginner level students By Cambridge University Press

Intermediate English grammar for intermediate and upper intermediate level students By Cambridge University Press

Practical English Grammar By Oxford University Press

For beginner level students :

Barron's IELTS

On course for IELTS by Oxford University Press

For development of skills for all modules of IELTS :

Preparation and practice series:

Reading and Writing Academic and General Training Modules By Oxford University Press

Practice Tests Book By Oxford University Press

Study English By Insearch Language Centre

For Development of Various Skills :

Reading :

Speed Reading Book By Tony Buzan

Cambridge series for fluency in reading 1-4 By Cambridge University Press

Study Reading By Cambridge University Press

Effective Reading By Cambridge University Press

Listening :

Cambridge skills for fluency in listening 1-4 By Cambridge University Press

Study Listening By Cambridge University Press

Vocabulary :

English Vocabulary in Use By Cambridge University Press:

Pre-intermediate to intermediate

Upper Intermediate

Advanced

Elementary Vocabulary and Intermediate Vocabulary By Longman

IELTS Task 2 Writing band descriptors (public version)

| Band | Task Response | Coherence and Cohesion | Lexical Resource | Grammatical Range and Accuracy |
|------|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fully addresses all parts of the task presents a fully developed position in answer to the question with relevant, fully extended and well supported ideas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses cohesion in such a way that it attracts no attention skilfully manages paragraphing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a wide range of vocabulary with precision and sophistication; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips' | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a wide range of structures with full flexibility and accuracy; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips' |
| 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sufficiently addresses all parts of the task presents a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sequences information and ideas logically manages all aspects of cohesion well uses paragraphing sufficiently and appropriately | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings skilfully uses uncommon lexical items but there may be occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation produces rare errors in spelling and/or word formation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a wide range of structures the majority of sentences are error-free makes only very occasional errors or inappropriacies |
| 7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> addresses all parts of the task presents a clear position throughout the response presents, extends and supports main ideas, but there may be a tendency to over-generalise and/or supporting ideas may lack focus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> logically organises information and ideas; there is clear progression throughout uses a range of cohesive devices appropriately although there may be some under-/over-use presents a clear central topic within each paragraph | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a sufficient range of vocabulary fluently to allow some flexibility in word choice uses less common lexical items with some awareness of style and collocation may produce occasional errors in word choice, spelling and/or word formation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a variety of complex structures produces frequent error-free sentences has good control of grammar and punctuation but may make a few errors |
| 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> addresses all parts of the task although some parts may be more fully covered than others presents a relevant position although the conclusions may become unclear or repetitive presents relevant main ideas but some may be inadequately developed/unclear | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> arranges information and ideas coherently and there is a clear overall progression uses cohesive devices effectively, but cohesion within and/or between sentences may be faulty or mechanical may not always use referencing clearly or appropriately uses paragraphing, but not always logically | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses an adequate range of vocabulary for the task attempts to use less common vocabulary but with some inaccuracy makes some errors in spelling and/or word formation, but they do not impede communication | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a mix of simple and complex sentence forms makes some errors in grammar and punctuation but they rarely reduce communication |
| 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> addresses the task only partially; the format may be inappropriate in places expresses a position but the development is not always clear and there may be no conclusions drawn presents some main ideas but these are limited and not sufficiently developed; there may be irrelevant detail | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> presents information with some organisation but there may be a lack of overall progression makes inadequate, inaccurate or over-use of cohesive devices may be repetitive because of lack of referencing and substitution may not write in paragraphs, or paragraphing may be inadequate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a limited range of vocabulary, but this is minimally adequate for the task may make noticeable errors in spelling and/or word formation that may cause some difficulty for the reader | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses only a limited range of structures attempts complex sentences but these are often less accurate than simple sentences may make frequent grammatical errors and punctuation errors; errors can cause some difficulty for the reader |
| 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> responds to the task only in a minimal way or the answer is tangential; the format may be inappropriate presents a position but this is unclear presents some main ideas but these are difficult to identify and may be repetitive, irrelevant or not well supported | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> presents information and ideas but these are not arranged coherently and there is no clear progression in the response uses some basic cohesive devices but these may be inaccurate or repetitive may not write in paragraphs or their use may be confusing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses only a very limited vocabulary which may be used repetitively or which may be inappropriate for the task has limited control of word formation and/or spelling; errors may cause strain for the reader | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses only a very limited range of structures with only rare use of subordinate clauses some structures are accurate but errors predominate, and punctuation is often faulty |
| 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> does not adequately address any part of the task does not express a clear position presents few ideas, which are largely undeveloped or irrelevant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> does not organise ideas logically may use a very limited range of cohesive devices, and those used may not indicate a logical relationship between ideas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses only a very limited range of words and expressions with very limited control of word formation and/or spelling errors may severely distort the message | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> attempts sentence forms but errors in grammar and punctuation predominate and distort the meaning |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> barely responds to the task does not express a position may attempt to present one or two ideas but there is no development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> has very little control of organisational features | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses an extremely limited range of vocabulary; essentially no control of word formation and/or spelling | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cannot use sentence forms except in memorised phrases |
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> answer is completely unrelated to the task | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fails to communicate any message | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> can only use a few isolated words | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cannot use sentence forms at all |
| 0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> does not attend does not attempt the task in any way writes a totally memorised response | | | |

IELTS Task 1 Writing band descriptors (public version)

| Band | Task Achievement | Coherence and Cohesion | Lexical Resource | Grammatical Range and Accuracy |
|------|--|--|--|--|
| 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fully satisfies all the requirements of the task clearly presents a fully developed response | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> organises ideas in such a way that it attracts no attention skilfully manages paragraphing sequences information and ideas logically manages all aspects of paragraphing well uses paragraphing sufficiently and appropriately | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a wide range of vocabulary with very natural and sophisticated control of lexical features; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips' | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a wide range of structures with full flexibility and accuracy; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips' |
| 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> covers all requirements of the task sufficiently presents, highlights and illustrates key features / bullet points clearly and appropriately | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> logically organises ideas; there is clear progression throughout uses a range of cohesive devices appropriately although there may be some under-use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a wide range of vocabulary fluently and accurately; rare minor errors occur uses a wide range of structures the majority of sentences are error-free or makes only very occasional errors or inappropriacies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a wide range of structures produces frequent error-free sentences has good control of grammar and punctuation but may make a few errors |
| 7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> covers the requirements of the task (Academic) presents a clear overview of main trends, differences and key features / bullet points with a clear purpose, with the tone consistent and appropriate clearly presents and highlights key features / bullet points but could be more fully extended | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> organises ideas; there is clear progression throughout uses a range of cohesive devices appropriately although there may be some under-use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a sufficient range of vocabulary to allow some flexibility and precision uses some common lexical items with some awareness of style and collocation may produce occasional errors in word choice, spelling and/or word formation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a variety of complex structures produces frequent error-free sentences has good control of grammar and punctuation but may make a few errors |
| 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> addresses the requirements of the task (Academic) presents a clear overview of main trends, differences and key features / bullet points but could be more fully extended (General Training) presents a purpose that is generally clear; there may be inconsistencies in tone presents and adequately highlights key features / bullet points but details may be irrelevant, inappropriate or inaccurate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> organises ideas; there is clear progression throughout uses a range of cohesive devices appropriately although there may be some under-use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses an adequate range of vocabulary for the task attempts to use less common vocabulary but with some inaccuracy word formation, but they do not impede communication | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a mix of simple and complex sentence forms makes some errors in grammar and punctuation but they rarely reduce communication |
| 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> generally addresses the task; the response is relevant but does not fully satisfy the requirements of the task (Academic) recounts detail mechanically with no clear overview; there may be no data to support the description (General Training) may present a purpose that is unclear at times; the tone may be variable and sometimes inappropriate presents, but inadequately covers, key features / bullet points; there may be a tendency to focus on details | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> organises ideas; there is clear progression throughout uses a range of cohesive devices appropriately although there may be some under-use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a limited range of vocabulary, but this is minimally adequate for the task may make noticeable errors in spelling and/or word formation that may cause some difficulty for the reader | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses only a limited range of structures attempts complex sentences but these tend to be less accurate than simple sentences may make frequent grammatical errors and punctuation errors which may cause some difficulty for the reader |
| 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> addresses the requirements of the task (Academic) presents a clear overview of main trends, differences and key features / bullet points; the format may be inappropriate (General Training) fails to clearly explain the purpose of the letter; the tone may be inappropriate may confuse key features / bullet points with details; presents a purpose that is unclear at times; the tone may be variable and sometimes inappropriate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> organises ideas; there is clear progression throughout uses a range of cohesive devices appropriately although there may be some under-use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses only basic vocabulary which may be used repetitively or which may be inappropriate for the task has limited control of word formation and/or spelling; errors may cause strain for the reader | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses only a very limited range of structures with only rare use of subordinate clauses some structures are accurate but errors predominate, and punctuation is often faulty |
| 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fails to address the task, which may have been completely misunderstood presents limited ideas which may be largely irrelevant/repetitive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> organises ideas; there is clear progression throughout uses a range of cohesive devices appropriately although there may be some under-use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses only a very limited range of words and expressions with little control of word formation and/or spelling errors may severely distort the message | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> attempts sentences, forms but errors in grammar and punctuation predominate and distort the meaning |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> answer is barely related to the task | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> organises ideas; there is clear progression throughout uses a range of cohesive devices appropriately although there may be some under-use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses an extremely limited range of words and expressions with little control of word formation and/or spelling can only use a few isolated words | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cannot use sentence forms except in memorised phrases |
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> answer is completely unrelated to the task | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> organises ideas; there is clear progression throughout uses a range of cohesive devices appropriately although there may be some under-use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses an extremely limited range of words and expressions with little control of word formation and/or spelling can only use a few isolated words | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cannot use sentence forms at all |
| 0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> does not attempt the task in any way writes a totally memorised response | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> organises ideas; there is clear progression throughout uses a range of cohesive devices appropriately although there may be some under-use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses an extremely limited range of words and expressions with little control of word formation and/or spelling can only use a few isolated words | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cannot use sentence forms at all |

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